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DECORATIVE NOVELTIES.

BY LAURA B. STARR.

THE Japanese Doll plays an important part in the decoration of many fancy articles nowadays. A flower-stand for the centre of the table is made of bamboo, with a standard for the centre; two wicker cornucopias, filled with flowers are fastened to this. A cross-piece of bamboo is filled with flowers at each end. Two tiny Japanese babies, sit astride this cross-piece and seem to enjoy the see-saw as much as American children.



Another use to which they may be put is that of an ornamental duster holder. Select a duster with a pretty bamboo handle and a good-sized Japanese doll. Cut the head from the body and make a hole through the top of it large enough for the handle of the duster to pass through, it will easily slip through the neck. For the rosette collar use handsome yellow satin ribbon; this is fastened to the neck of the doll with needle and strong thread. Narrow ribbon to match is wound around the handle and makes a loop with which to suspend it.

The "Tuck-away Table" is a very useful little affair that every one will like to

know of; for novelties in tables are always appreciated by housekeepers. This table which has been christened with such a fitting name, is the invention of our English cousins. It folds up when out of use, after the style of a camp-stool; but it is so arranged that it still stands on its own legs, and is not dependent on the wall for support.

The "Smokers' Table" looks like a saw-horse with a table top. I fancy an ingenious person could easily make one of a saw-horse and a piece of board. These tables are brown and fitted with a smoker's set of cigar-holder, match-box and ash-receivers. Finished in white enamel, pale blue or pink, to match the room, these tables make lovely little work-tables or they may be used for writing, holding book, photographs, etc.

An "Ivory" room or hall is very fashionable and not at all difficult to obtain. White enameling has been in vogue for some time, but the new tint is more creamy. The old ivory Japanese paper is used for panels, jambs of mantel shelves and dados. Sometimes the floor is enameled old ivory, and has rugs and small carpets of Oriental make laid on.

A home-made portière which is really very handsome, is made of straws of rather heavy rope with fringed-out and tassels at the ends. The straws are fastened to a pole with smaller ropes and fringed-out tassels.

A pretty book-mark is made of four pieces of ribbon with a tiny bell fastened to one end of each, the other being sewn fast to a small ivory or celluloid ring. The following lines are painted in gold on the four markers: "Not mine to tell. If the book is good, I keep my place, as a marker should."

No well regulated desk is found this season without one of the numerous postal card-cases; these are found in great variety, from the plain unornamented leather one, good for years of service, to the delicate satin one covered with embroidery or painting. A paper in imitation of birch bark prettily decorated with the brush is a material much in use.

Holiday and birthday cards are made of the same material and adorned with sentiments suitable to the occasion: "You

know I wish you much joy and true happiness; Else, why should I trouble to send you this 'greeting.'"

Book embroidery still holds its own among the artistic creations of the day. Brocades, silks, satins and all sorts of rich materials are used for these covers which cannot be too handsome nor laborate. Many of the books presented to kings and queens in the past have been ornamented in this way and from them may be had many a lesson in artistic work. One of the most curious is a small "Biblia Sacra" printed in 1590, found in the British museum. It is described as having "covers of green velvet, embroidered richly with seed pearls, a garnet forming the centre." There is a broad border ornamented with a running device in pearls, the centre being formed of a radiating floral form, not unlike a lily. In the corners are roses and a variety of triple fleur-de-lis. The stems of the flowers are formed of gold thread, with which also the flowers are outlined. The smaller flowers are formed of silver thread. Small devices in silver thread and pearls fill up the ground-work.

A rug with foot muff is a very delightful acquisition to one's belongings. The rug should be made of heavy felt, provided with a warm lining and a stiff interlining. There are four pockets or muffs, one at each corner. The corners of the rug may be left square or cut rounding, to fit more easily the shape of the pockets. The pockets may be made of felt of the same shade or a contrasting one, braided with a running design of handsomer and more elaborate rugs have crocheted pockets as muffs. To make these it is necessary to cut stiff paper patterns just the shape and size and then crocheted to fit them. Double Germantown wool should be used and the single crochet stitch back and forth making a ridge like the toilet slippers. The outer edge of the rug is finished with a row of single crochet and a single border.

From six "slim, sleek, slippery sapplings" may be made a great variety of highly ornamental, as well as useful articles, if one only knows how. First, the bark should be stripped off and the saplings put to soak in water until the twigs become so pliable they can be twisted into any shape. This done, an ingenious woman with deft fingers, will work the saplings into easels, picture frames, work-boxes, portfolios, foot-rests and various

other articles, having the effect of wood carving.

Dainty jewel boxes, work-boxes and a thousand-and-one knick-knacks are fashioned from wood veneer. These thin shavings hold their shape and show every grain and curve of the wood, while being so transparent that the light shows through. A punch for making holes, through which to lace the ribbons is necessary, and a bottle of La Paige's glue. Veneer is an excellent medium for water colors, and is susceptible of an infinite variety of decorations.

Pretty aprons for morning wear may be made out of white linen, with roses or other flowers cut out of flowered sateen, and tacked on lightly, then buttoned-holed with white or colored thread. A particularly pretty one was made out of brown holland and trimmed with bands of turquoise blue sateen, flowered with moon daisies, which were put on in straight lengths and button-holed around the edge with a stitch here and there to give effectiveness to the petals of the flowers.

The old fashioned hinged towel racks similar in shape, only smaller, to the clothes-horse, make admirable fire screens if covered with a full drapery of some Oriental fabric.

The common wooden settee with railed back and arms will make a very useful and artistic piece of furniture if properly treated. First, paint the whole settee with three coats of cream white and rub it down to an even smooth surface. Stencil on the broad back-piece a graceful pattern of flower festoons and fluttering ribbons in plain gold. Fill the seat with a cushion of Oriental silk, and the settee is a thing of beauty and a joy for a long time.

Five o'clock tea cloths may be handsomely embellished by darning in the woven pattern around the edge and outlining the centre designs in contrasting colors, as indigo and dead gold, coral pink and willow green, sea blue and golden brown, and finishing the edge with a rather full frill of lace.

A pretty and simple arrangement for holding flowers is made of common straw cover that is used to protect wine bottles. Cut the string at the largest end of the cover and insert a heavy wire so that the opening can be made any shape desired—the cover is a miniature hay bale or sheaf of wheat in shape. The straws are bent carefully, and the flowers laid in. An addition to the piece is a shining dew-besprinkled spider web placed in the midst, this is made of fine wire steel with diamond dust sprinkled on.

Another easily arranged decoration is a fan with a tin packet in which to place the flowers and trailing vines.

A sponge bag is made of pongee in the natural color and lined with oil silk. The proportions are 10 by 12 inches when finished; it is made like a pillow-case, the oiled silk not running up into the shirring.

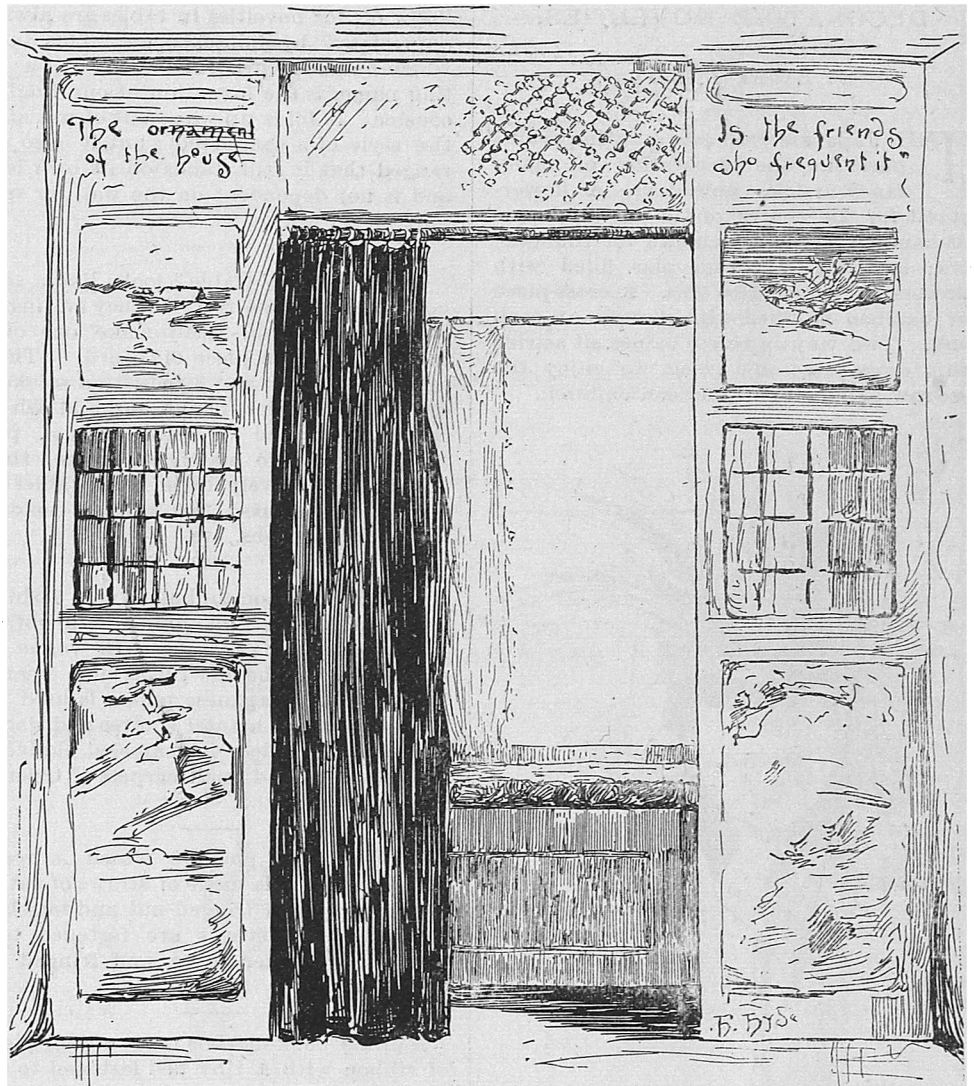
The word "sponges" is embroidered on one side in straggling letters, almost diagonally across the bag. Twining about these letters are sprays of sea-mosses with a branch of coral in one corner. On the other side are sea-mosses and shells. All are worked in coral-colored wash silk, and the bag is drawn up with a coral-colored satin ribbon. The pongee with the coral shade is the prettiest and most effective combination in color, while the neutral tone of the pongee prevents it from fading.

The German Spachtel work is very much in vogue now and is a favorite ornamentation for bedspreads and pillow shams. It is largely used for centre-pieces, doilies and carving cloths. It is a strong em-

panel is then fixed on the glass with fresh and smooth binder's paste. Large surfaces of glass can be thus decorated by multiplying the number of painted gelatine tablets, and separating them by strips of tin-foil, instead of having them set in lead. This method of ornamenting glass really deserves to be recommended, as its effect comes closest to stained glass.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF A SQUARE WINDOW.

THE lattice over the portière is made of red and white reglet sticks, woven back and forth diamond-wise. The side panels are of dark wood with sketches done in poker work, alternated



A SUGGESTION FOR A SQUARE WINDOW.

broidery done in button-hole stitch on the linen, which being cut out, leaves a handsome, durable, open work pattern, which is to be lined with colored silk.

Diaphanic Ornamentation is the name which has been given to a new method or ornamenting window panes, fire-screens, panels, candle shades, hall lanterns, etc. The frames are composed of the well-known glass mosaic set in lead, which admits of great variety in designs and colors. The figure or other subjects in the centre are first painted on a kind of thin, hard gelatine, which transmits the light, and, after having been varnished, resists the influence of damp and heat. The gelatine

with bits of tapestry. A wide seat is fitted into the window and this is cushioned with Oriental stuff to match the hangings. To make a corner, if the window be large enough, a smoker's table should be placed behind the curtain, upon this a shaded lamp, a favorite book, a footstool and pillows will make it as cosy as the most luxurious will desire.

For a white and gold room the wood-work should be painted white and the panels filled with plaster bas-reliefs treated to look like old ivory; the portiere in this case should be golden brown with design traced in gold embroidery.

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